



Western Library System Helping libraries serve our communities.

Sept./Oct. 2017

“Beginnings Anew”

by Jan Jolliffe

Fall has a distinct quality of conjuring up memories of the past. The aroma of fall crops and certain spices that permeate the air, fall foliage and piles of leaves, the invigorating thrill of the chill in the air, hot chocolate, s'mores, new book series' to read back to back, football season, along with darkening days that signal the calm of winter to come. For some this conveys the end... the end of summer holidays, going back to the grind of school, perhaps a students' senior year or a college child leaving from home once again.

Fortunately, in our libraries, we can make this time of year the beginning: new classes to visit our school libraries, rejuvenated Storytime's for the youngest patrons and their parents, overhauled crafts, technology and textiles, coding and Lego clubs, non- traditional book clubs or modernized games to play and learn. Many librarians might decide to teach our younger generation how to quilt, crochet, knit, or sew as past generations did by hand, while others will institute the newest innovative technology studios to offer our patrons alternative hobbies or perhaps entice them with fresh entrepreneurial adventures. New fiscal years translate into fresh diversified collections with books, periodicals, and updated state-of-the-art research tools, along with creative librarians in place to initiate these new beginnings and perspectives. In essence, fall brings a chance for change and restructure which helps us to meet more of our communities' needs.

Here in the Western Library System we're focusing on the new as well. Plans for Librarian Job-A-Likes, District Librarian Meet & Greets, Readers Advisory Sessions, Literacy Initiatives, Crowdfunding and many exciting programs to come are taking shape. One of my favorite authors, Francis Hodgson Burnett, claims in *The Secret Garden* that “if you look the right way, you can see that the whole world is a garden.” I'm imagining our WLS and the many libraries within our five districts as the garden where great ideas are blossoming, and where each librarian embraces this time to reimagine what their library will offer their patrons. I'm looking forward to attending the NLA/NSLA Conference in Kearney to hear eight of our WLS librarians present their ideas on various subjects and programs...all things library related, to propel us forward into the future; as specialists within our communities, where we can make a difference with the blooms of newly enriched excitement and enticing programs for all ages.

Cheers to a fabulous fall and new beginnings all around!

- Jan

“The most important asset of any library goes home at night - the library staff.”

Timothy Healy

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September/October Display and Programming Ideas

Library Card Sign-Up Month

This is a month when the American Library Association and libraries across the country remind parents that a library card is the most important school supply of all. This observance was launched in 1987. Since then, thousands of public and school libraries join each fall in a national effort to ensure every child has a library card and uses it. Fill the display with fiction about librarians and a mix of books for children about the library. Check out ALA's website: <http://www.ala.org/conferenceevents/celebrationweeks/card>

National Hispanic Heritage Month (September 15 – October 15)

Each year, Americans observe National Hispanic Heritage Month from September 15 to October 15, by celebrating the histories, cultures and contributions of American citizens whose ancestors came from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean and Central and South America. The day of September 15 is significant because it is the anniversary of independence for Latin American countries Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. In addition, Mexico and Chile celebrate their independence days on September 16 and September 18, respectively. Also, Columbus Day or Día de la Raza, which is October 12, falls within this 30 day period. For more information go to: <http://hispanicheritagemoth.gov/about/>.

First Day of Autumn (September 22, 2017)

Create fun fall bulletin boards: (<https://www.pinterest.com/search/pins/?rs=ac&len=2&q=library%20fall%20displays&eq=library%20fall%20displays&etslf=2810>) along with a display of autumn-themed books.

Banned Books Week (September 24-30)

Banned Books Week, the annual celebration of the freedom to read, will be held the week of September 24th in 2017. For this year's celebration, the coalition of organizations that sponsors Banned Books Week will emphasize the importance of the First Amendment, which guarantees our inherent right to read. Check out: <http://www.bannedbooksweek.org/> for more information. Display books that have been challenged or banned and encourage your patrons to read (or re-read) the titles. For challenged books visit: <http://www.ala.org/advocacy/bbooks/frequentlychallengedbooks/top10>. For free downloads visit: <http://www.ala.org/advocacy/bbooks/bannedbooksweek/ideasandresources/freedownloads>.

Teen Read Week (October 8-14)

"Unleash Your Story" is the theme for this year's Teen Read Week. This began in 1998 as a national literacy Initiative of the Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA) to focus on timely topics and teen interests, and to encourage 12-18 year olds to "Read For The Fun Of It". Teen Read Week is celebrated the third full week in October every year. <http://teenreadweek.ning.com/>. Check out their publicity page: <http://teenreadweek.ning.com/page/publicity-tools>.

National Friends of the Library Week (October 15-21)

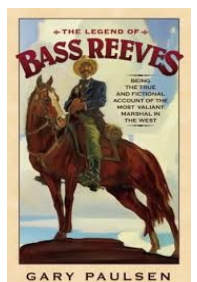
Promote your group in the community, raise awareness, and promote membership. Two Friends of the Library groups will be awarded \$250 each in honor of their celebrations during the week. Visit: <http://www.ala.org/unitedeventsconferences/folweek>

NCOMPASS LIVE: ONE BOOK FOR NEBRASKA KIDS & TEENS 2017

Posted on [September 9, 2017](#) by [Christa Porter](#)

Be sure to watch the archived edition of 'One Book For Nebraska Kids & Teens 2017' on the NCompass Live website at: <http://nlc.nebraska.gov/NCompassLive/>

Wouldn't it be great if kids all over Nebraska were talking about books? The Nebraska Library Commission & the Regional Library Systems have a program where kids can all read and discuss the same book. Join Sally Snyder, the NLC's Coordinator of Children and Young Adult Library Services, to learn all about the [2017 program](#): One Book For Nebraska Kids – *Alcatraz Versus the Evil Librarians* by Brandon Sanderson, and One Book For Nebraska Teens – *The Legend of Bass Reeves* by Gary Paulsen.



Mark Your Calendar

Banned Books Week

September 24 - 30, 2017

<http://www.bannedbooksweek.org/>

Teen Read Week

October 8-14, 2017

<http://teenreadweek.ning.com/>

Public Library Accreditation completed Accreditation Applications are due **October 1, 2017**. Be sure to check out the [Strategic Planning and Public Library Accreditation](#).

Kreutz Bennett Donor-Advised Fund

Short applications received on or before October 1, 2017 will be considered for the grant cycle awarded in March 2018.

[Funding Website](#)

NLA/NSLA Fall Conference

Oct 11-13 Kearney

"PROVIDING ACCESS to the GOOD LIFE. FOR ALL."

Younes Conference Center

[Information](#).

Plan to stop by the following exhibits while at conference:

Learn, Play, Make @ Library Innovation Studios

Thursday (October 12) at 11:00 a.m. -12:30 p.m.

Library Innovation Studios: How to Garner Community Support for a Makerspace Thursday (October 12) at 3:00-4:00 p.m.

25th Annual Letters About Literature Contest

Open now until December 9

<http://www.read.gov/letters/>

2017 Celebration of Nebraska Books

Saturday, October 21, 2017; 2:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Nebraska History Museum
131 Centennial Mall North,
Lincoln, NE [http://](http://centerforthe-book.nebraska.gov/programs/celebration.html)

centerforthe-book.nebraska.gov/programs/celebration.html

Upcoming NCompass Live

Upcoming NCompass Live events:

- September 13 - One Book For Nebraska Kids & Teens 2017
- September 20 - Empowering Immigrant Community Members Through Education & Information
- September 27 - Weeding Your Library Collection
- **NO NCOMPASS LIVE THIS WEEK - Enjoy the 2017 NLA/NSLA Annual Conference!** Check out the [full program and register](#).
- October 18—ALA Book Club Central
- October 24—Google Forms for Your Library

Basic Skills for Nebraska Librarians 2017 Schedule

Class Dates	Class	Instructor	Registration Dates
9/11 - 9/22	The Community and the Library*	Sam Shaw	8/14 - 8/31
9/25 - 10/6	Management and Supervision	Scott Childers	8/28 - 9/14
10/16-10/27	Leadership	Anneka Ramirez	9/18 - 10/5
11/6 - 11/17	Library Service to Children & Youth	Sally Snyder	10/2 - 10/26

(* Requisite class)

Register on the Nebraska Library Commission [Training and Events Calendar](#).
[Description of Basic Skills courses](#)

[Basic Skills Planner](#)--for program participants to keep track of their progress
For further information, contact [Holli Duggan](#), NLC Continuing Education Coordinator.

Visit the Nebraska Library Commission Website for News and Announcements.



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2017 Celebration of Nebraska Books

The celebration, free and open to the public, features presentations of the Nebraska Center for the Book's **Nebraska Book Awards**, **Mildred Bennett Award** and **Jane Geske Award**. The 2017 **Nebraska Book Awards** honors authors and publishers of books with a Nebraska connection published in 2016. Featured winning authors read from their work and sign copies of their books. The 2017 **Jane Geske Awards** will be presented for exceptional contributions to literacy, books, reading, libraries, or literature in Nebraska. The Jane Geske Award commemorates Geske's passion for books, and was established in recognition of her contributions to the well-being of the libraries of Nebraska. Jane Pope Geske was a founding member of the Nebraska Center for the Book, former director of the Nebraska Library Commission, and a long-time leader in Nebraska library and literary activities. The **Mildred Bennett Awards** recognize individuals who have made significant contributions to the fostering of the literary tradition in Nebraska. Its purpose is to remind us all of the literary and intellectual traditions that enrich our lives and mold our world. The 2017 **One Book One Nebraska** book selection, *Black Elk Speaks* by John G. Neihardt will be featured, with a presentation by Tim Anderson.

The Nebraska Center for the Book **Annual Meeting** will be held at 1:30 p.m., just prior to the celebration. An **Awards Reception** honoring the winning authors, book signing, and an announcement of the **2018 One Book One Nebraska book choice** will conclude the festivities.

Accessed 9/14/2017 from: <http://centerforthebook.nebraska.gov/programs/celebration.html>



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A CELEBRATION OF *Nebraska Books*

SAVE the DATE Oct. 21, 2017
2:30-6:30pm

NEBRASKA HISTORY MUSEUM
131 Centennial Mall North • Lincoln, NE



JOIN US TO CELEBRATE:

2017 One Book One Nebraska
Black Elk Speaks by John G. Neihardt
with Timothy Anderson
Nebraska Book Award Winners
Mildred Bennett & Jane Geske Award Presentation
2018 One Book One Nebraska Announcement
Reception and Book Signings

More Info:
centerforthebook.nebraska.gov
facebook.com/NebraskaCenterfortheBook

Thank You JennaLee!

Thank you to JennaLee Designs for providing the Creative Folded Book Design Centerpieces and the framed library quotes → for our WLS Annual Meeting in Lewellen!

JennaLee Designs

Visit my Etsy shop and see vinyl decals, wall stickers, planner supplies, and more.

www.etsy.com/shop/jennaleedesignshs

For more information call Jenn Wohl
308-207-5553 or email jwohl76@gmail.com

Nebraska Golden Sower Award Nominees

The Golden Sower Nominee list is developed by selection committees of volunteer readers representing classroom teachers, media specialists, and librarians in Nebraska.

2017-2018 Picture Book Nominees

Job Wanted by Teresa Bateman. Illustrated by Chris Sheban.
Duncan the Story Dragon. Written and Illustrated by Amanda Drisoll.
Wolfe the Bunny by Ame Dyckman. Illustrated by Zachariah O'Hora.
We Forgot Brock! Written and Illustrated by Carter Goodrich.
Mother Bruce. Written and Illustrated by Ryan T. Higgins
Marilyn's Monster by Michelle Knudsen. Illustrated by Matt Phelan.
New Shoes by Susan Meyer. Illustrated by Eric Velasquez.
If You Plant a Seed. Written and Illustrated by Kadir Nelson
One Plastic Bag: Isatou Ceesay and the Recycling Women of the Gambia by Miranda Paul.
Illus. by Elizabeth Zunon.
Miss Hazeltine's Home for Shy and Fearful Cats by Alicia Potter. Illustrated by Birgitta Sif.



2017-2018 Chapter Book Nominees

Crenshaw by Katherine Applegate
Book Scavenger by Jennifer Chambliss Bertman
Ruby Lee and Me by Shannon Hitchcock
Paper Things by Jennifer Richard Jacobson
A Handful of Stars by Cynthia Lord
All the Answers by Kate Messner
The Seventh Most Important Thing by Shelley Pearsall
Fuzzy Mud by Louis Sachar
Appleblossom the Possum by Holly Goldberg Sloan
Baker's Magic by Diane Zahler



2017-2018 Novel Nominees

Booked by Kwame Alexander
Code of Honor by Alan Gratz
Took: A Ghost Story by Mary Downing Hahn
House Arrest by K.A. Holt
Terror at Bottle Creek by Watt Key
Losers Take All by David Klass
A Night Divided by Jennifer A. Nielsen
I am Princess X by Cherie Priest
Faceless by Alyssa Scheinmel
Orbiting Jupiter by Gary D. Schmidt



Information provided by Denise Harders, Central Plains Library System

Library Innovation Studios: Transforming Rural Communities at NLA/NSLA Conference



The Nebraska Library Commission is partnering with the University of Nebraska Lincoln (UNL), Nebraska Innovation Studio, Nebraska Extension, Regional Library Systems, and local public libraries on Nebraska's Library Innovation Studios: Transforming Rural Communities project to create library makerspaces. The Nebraska Library Commission was recently awarded a National Leadership Grant of \$530,732 by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) to fund rotating equipment, training, and Community Engagement activities.

To introduce Nebraska library staff to the project, we will have lots of fun learning experiences available at the upcoming Nebraska Library Association/Nebraska School Librarians Association conference (<http://www.nebraskalibraries.org/page/Neblib2017>) October 11-13 in Kearney. We plan to have the makerspace equipment set up in the Exhibit Hall throughout the conference. And we will be hosting several opportunities for you to learn more about the project and experiment with the equipment:

- * Thursday (October 12) and Friday morning (October 13), plan to stop by our Library Innovation Studios area in the Exhibit Hall. Watch the equipment in action and work with us to make things in the studio area. Make a button, a laser-cut coaster or name tag, a laminated bookmark, a t-shirt, an embroidered hot pad, or other things that we'll be demonstrating or helping you make. (Supplies will be limited.) Bring a photo of your library, cat/dog, or kids to make a picture-backed mirror or a picture button for your refrigerator (the finished product to be 2.25" in diameter). Or bring your library logo, favorite photos, or artwork on a memory stick to work into a design.
- * Thursday (October 12) at 11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.: Learn, Play, Make @ Library Innovation Studios. Nebraska Library Commission and Nebraska Innovation Studio staff will lead this interactive workshop in the Exhibit Hall to demonstrate how to use several of the components that will be featured at the Nebraska Library Innovation Studios: Transforming Rural Communities local library studios. For a look at components you can expect to see in action, see <http://nlc.nebraska.gov/grants/InnovationStudios/Components/>.
- * Thursday (October 12) at 3:00-4:00 p.m.: Library Innovation Studios: How to Garner Community Support for a Makerspace. Presenters from the Nebraska Library Commission and Nebraska Extension will share information about the Library Innovation Studios rotating makerspaces. The community engagement process that is key to the library's ability to support a makerspace in the long term will be featured in this presentation

If you have questions please contact JoAnn McManus, Nebraska Library Commission Library Innovation Studio Project Manager, 402-471-4870 or 800-3072665, e-mail: joann.mcmanus@nebraska.gov.



We look forward to seeing you in Kearney.

Letters about Literature Contest



Young Readers Invited to Write to Favorite Authors

Young readers in grades 4 -12 are invited to write a personal letter to an author for the Letters about Literature (LAL) contest, a national reading and writing promotion program. The letter can be to any author (living or dead) from any genre - fiction or nonfiction, contemporary or classic - explaining how that author's work changed the student's view of the world. The 25th annual reflective writing competition is sponsored by the Library of Congress Center for the Book and presented in association with affiliate State Centers for the Book with funding provided by the Dollar General Literacy Foundation. Letters About Literature is coordinated and sponsored in Nebraska by the Nebraska Center for the Book and the Nebraska Library Commission, with support from Houchen Bindery, Ltd., Humanities Nebraska, and Chapters Bookstore in Seward.

Prizes will be awarded on both the state and national levels. The Nebraska Center for the Book's panel of judges will select the top letter writers in the state, to be honored in a proclamation-signing ceremony at the state capitol during National Library Week in April 2018. Their winning letters will be placed in the Jane Pope Geske Heritage Room of Nebraska Authors at Bennett Martin Public Library in Lincoln. Nebraska winners will receive state prizes, and then advance to the national judging.

A panel of national judges for the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress will select one National Winner per competition level (Level I for grades 4 - 6, Level II for grades 7 - 8, and Level III for grades 9 -12) to receive a \$1,000 cash award, to be announced in May 2018. The judges will also select one National Honor winner on each competition level to receive a \$200 cash award.

Teachers, librarians, and parents can download free teaching materials on reader response and reflective writing, along with contest details and entry forms, at www.read.gov/letters. Nebraska-specific information (including lists of Nebraska winners of past competitions) is available at <http://centerforthebook.nebraska.gov/programs/LAL.html>. Get inspired by listening to Nebraska winners, Ashley Xiques and Sydney Kohl, read and talk about and their winning letters to authors that meant something to them in their own lives, see NET Radio's *All About Books* (<http://netnebraska.org/basic-page/radio/all-about-books>). Submissions must be postmarked by December 9, 2017. For more information contact [Mary Jo Ryan](mailto:MaryJo.Ryan@nebraska.gov), MaryJo.Ryan@nebraska.gov, 402-471-3434 or 800-307-2665.



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Posted on by September 13, by [Mary Jo Ryan](#)

Information provided by
Nebraska Library Commission

News Around The System

WLS Mini-Grant: Grant County Library

The WLS \$500 mini-grant gave the Grant County Library the opportunity to create a Young Adult Fiction Section. This was a strategic plan goal and we have been working toward this for a long time. We felt that the teens deserved their own area and wanted them to feel like they were a part of a special group.

We used the money for a tall wooden bookshelf built by a local carpenter with shelves on both sides. Then we purchased more YA books and the signage to complete the project. The \$500 grant fell short of the total expenses but the library foundation donated the funds needed to complete the project.

The results from this project have been very positive. We have seen increased teen traffic. They are pleased to have their own bookshelf to go to and excited about the new books that were purchased. Our hopes are with school starting soon, we will see even more teens using the Grant County Library.

Thank you WLS Board of Directors for this generous grant that gave the Grant County Library the opportunity to complete this goal for our teens.



Article and photo by Vickie Retzlaff, Director of Grant County Library – Hyannis, NE

News Around The System

GRANT COUNTY LIBRARY HAPPENINGS

Grant County Kicks Off Summer Reading with



Dan Glomski from the Edgerton Explorit Center out of Aurora, NE presented a program on the August 21st eclipse.

Program on the Solar Eclipse

There's a lot of fun and learning going on for the youth patrons at the Grant County Library in Hyannis, Nebraska!



Safety First: We made sure to have on our hardhats while we made bird feeders out of recycled plastic bottles.

On the last day of summer reading, the library board provided a picnic and then reading certificates and awards were presented.



Article and photos submitted by Jennifer Holthus,
Children's Librarian, Grant County Library
Hyannis, Nebraska

News Around The System

Paxton Public Library - Summer Reading Fun

Emergency First Responders provided the Paxton Library Summers Readers an emergency preparedness program about when to call 911.



Paperbag Princess dresses, decorated by Paxton's creative summer readers!

Photos provided by Dianne Jay, Paxton Public Library Director

WLS Mini-Grant: Rushville Public Library

The Rushville Public Library has purchased seven new laptop computers thanks, in part, to a \$500.00 grant awarded by The Western Library System. The Western Library System is based in Scottsbluff and covers the panhandle area. The grant program awards selected libraries funding for purchases emphasizing literacy, library technology, and library programming.

Dela DeSersa, Library Director, said the grant money was combined with other funds to purchase the HP Stream laptops. The addition of the laptops has significantly upgraded the technological opportunities for all patrons of the library. Each laptop has internet accessibility.

To date, several students have taken advantage of the laptops to complete homework assignments, access social media sites, research topics of interest and of course, play games. After school hours are usually busy with students entertaining each other while playing their interactive games using the computers.

There have also been adult patrons that have utilized the new laptops to gain knowledge and experience working with the Windows 10 Operating System.

These compact purple computers can be checked out and used in the library by any patron during normal business hours. The computers are not allowed to leave the library, but there are several quiet areas within the library for patrons' convenience, including a basement area. (Children are required to have a parental/guardian permission slip signed prior to accessing the internet.)

The library is open Monday through Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

The Rushville Public Library is very grateful to have been one of the Nebraska libraries selected to receive the grant from the Western Library System.

Article submitted by Dela DeSersa, Library Director Rushville Public Library

WLS Mini-Grant: Goodall City Library

The Goodall City Library received a mini grant from WLS in the amount of \$500. We used this grant for a new project that has evolved from 9 members to over 30. The program is called Humanities Insight @ your Library. We meet twice a week and each person has either a paint by numbers canvas, diamond paint by number canvas, or embroidery piece that they work on during the two hours. Along with the crafting we also have a lesson that has to do with the humanities. The Humanities lesson or education piece can be anything from information about national holidays, current events, to informational speakers. We also do random crafts such as cookie decorating and DIY crafts. Our members range from 18 to 90.

We have received feedback from the groups that their respective favorite parts of the program are the information we give and the community fellowship between each other. We have also expanded this grant into an ongoing program with a unified goal of painting canvases that will eventually turn into a silent auction gallery showing. The Gallery Showing will be to feature the work that our program members have done, as well as raise funds for our New Library Building Fund. We have had good feedback and suggestions from the members and we are looking forward to what the future holds for us. We hope that this program builds and continues to be a source of comfort, friendship, and knowledge for our community.

Article provided by Chelsea Foust, Goodall City Library, Ogallala, NE

WLS Mini-Grant: Ogallala High School Library, College Preparedness

The Ogallala High School Library conducted a program for high school students on college preparedness. Mini courses were offered on Monday mornings and Wednesday afternoon lunchtimes. Topics included in the courses covered 10 areas ranging from identity theft, surviving dorm life, credit scores and communication.

The high school plans to continue with the program in order to keep educating students on college preparedness and to continue discussions among students on these important topics. Current/former college students and community speakers are also going to be added to the mini session meetings during the upcoming school year.



Article and picture provided by Rozy Tuttle, Ogallala High School Librarian/Programming/Coding/Digital Media, 8/31/2017

Happenings at the Oshkosh Public Library

The Oshkosh Public Library was delighted to receive a grant from the Western Library System this year and have seen fruit from our purchases. Because of this grant, we have an exciting addition to our Library: a wireless printer! With everyone heavily using smart phones, we have had several patrons ask if they could print off their devices. And now... our answer is yes. :) With a quick download of an app or driver onto a laptop, people can now print from anywhere in the library.

Speaking of printers, we do have a printer wired into our desktop computers, but our computer chairs were a sad sight. Mismatched, old and uncomfortable, we also used this grant money to purchase new comfortable seating for our patrons as they come in to use the computers, which are popular here in Oshkosh.

We also purchased a few new juvenile books for our collection prompted by kiddos asking, "Do you have such and such book?" and me saying, "No... it doesn't look like it". Now... some of the "*Spirit Animals*" soar in our kids section; kids are enjoying the newest of "*Diary of a Wimpy Kid*", and imagining being "*Trapped in Video Games*". A couple new LEGO books keep the brick enthusiasts happy and we've discovered that "*Dragons Love Tacos*"... all of which have been great additions to the Library here.

Thank you, WLS, for investing in the Libraries in our region!

Article submitted by Denise Ketchens, Oshkosh Public Library Director



Toni, Jana, and Noelle serve eclipse-related snacks to patrons and viewers: Capri Sun, Star Crunch cookies, Cosmic brownies, Sunkist fruit snacks, Starburst candy, and Eclipse and Orbit



Judy, Roberta, and Jim prepare for the moment of totality



Library staff and out-of-state visitors enjoy the view from the park

Lied Scottsbluff Public Library Total Eclipse Party

Pictures and captions provided by
Noelle Thompson, Director,
Lied Scottsbluff Public Library



A brother and sister from Scottsdale, AZ enjoy the view of the sun while keeping their bodies in the shade.

WLS Mini-Grant: Arthur County Library Seating Area

The \$500 WLS mini-grant will make a big difference for our community. Our library serves the county population of 500 from a 480 sq. ft. room in the Arthur County courthouse. As the new librarian I looked at it with a fresh perspective, trying to see what our community really needs and how the library could serve. I used the BiblioStat survey data to analyze our sq. footage, population size & collection size with comparable NE libraries. We had a huge collection for the number of patrons and space. I looked at ADA regulations; our shelving was spaced too closely. And I used our collection usage data and found that 60% of our collection had not even circulated one time in the six years the database covered. Our small rural community had no place for people to meet a friend in town other than in the feed store or grocery store. Hmm, could we meet a need there, especially for the moms with small children?

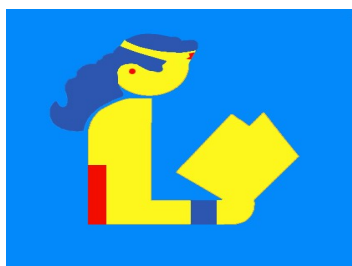
Over the course of about six months the entire collection was weeded using the CREW guidelines to help in the decision making. I spaced books so it looked as nice as possible during the transition. Our five extra bookshelves were given to the fire department and the 4-H club. My tip: when doing a big transition like this, do the obvious part as quickly as possible; once people see the final transformation they are happy with the change.

I chose to purchase lightweight, durable patio furniture that was on sale at the end of the summer. The loveseat, six stacking chairs, and two small folding tables can be moved around and set up however anyone needs them. They can even be taken outside if a group would like to meet in the park. In addition, I also purchased an end table for our toys and a small stand for the Keurig coffee maker that a patron is donating. Total cost for the project was \$574.

My hope is that the library will be a place for people to meet in town, to visit with a friend or offer small meeting spaces. We now have space for our monthly book club to meet comfortably and our school kids to sit and read when they come over four times a week. The area was used by Representative Adrian Smith for a community meeting just three days after the transformation was complete. I am planning to offer programming on a regular basis, and one program in particular will be for moms to have a preschool story hour. Other programming ideas include having a regular time to play games such as Scrabble or card games, things that will foster the friendships in our community.

Patrons are surprised when they see our space for the first time and I enjoy the smiles that quickly spread over their faces. I have heard many comments such as “friendly,” “comfortable,” “inviting” and “more useful.” Thank you, WLS, for investing in our community.

Article provided by Evanna Harden, Arthur County Library Director



Lots of Sidney Public Library Happenings:

Eclipse Party, Grant for Makerspace and The Sidney-Sun Telegraph Digital Newspaper Archive

The patrons of Sidney Public Library had a great time at their Eclipse Party. Sidney Schools elementary students grades 1-6 attended. The library provided the solar glasses via a grant of 1000 solar glasses from STARnet. In addition to watching the eclipse, the kids ate a picnic lunch and danced to a DJ. Lots of pics on our Facebook page. Director "Sherm" Andrews did a program about the science of solar eclipses and how to view them safely at all the elementary schools on the Friday prior to the eclipse on Monday.



Eclipse Viewing Party with picnic and a D.J.!



Thank you notes from the Sidney Schools elementary students.



Everyone enjoyed the eclipse program!



Thanks to a library improvement grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services and the Nebraska Library Commission and a match by the Sidney Public Library Foundation, the Sidney-Sun Telegraph Digital Newspaper Archive is now available. This archive is a fully text searchable digital archive of the local Sidney newspaper from 1875. The link to it is on the Library's website at <http://sidneypubliclibrary.org>.



Check out the attached article about Sidney Public Library's new makerspace project:

<http://ianrnews.unl.edu/model-innovation-project-will-bring-makerspace-sidney>

Way to GO!!!

Morrill Public Library - Guess the Lego's Contest



with a guess of 820 Legos
(actual amount was 873)



And the winner is...

Marcus Graham!!!

Pictures and article submitted by Sarah Alfred, Director, Morrill Public Library

WLS Mini-Grant: Dundy County Library

Dundy County Library in Benkelman is thankful to have received a five hundred dollar grant from the Western Nebraska Library System. We originally applied for the grant because our Young Adult collection needed some attention. The grant was extremely valuable in improving our collection. After weeding out some of our outdated books, the grant enabled us to purchase books that would not only improve our young adult section for our regular young adult readers, but attract some new young adults to our library.

Steve Job's biography, *Steve Jobs: the Man Who Thought Differently* was purchased for our nonfiction biography collection. Added to the collection were titles by John Green, Cassandra Clare, and Sherman Alexie. Books were also added to fill in several book series like James Patterson's Daniel X and Maximum Ride series. *Ms. Marvel* was purchased to add to our small collection of graphic novels. It was a great beginning for the revamp of our young adult collection.

Please be assured that the grant program funds went to good use and had a positive impact on the Dundy County Library. We are grateful and wish to extend our thanks in behalf of our library and its patrons to the Western Nebraska Library system for supporting our library and sponsoring some much needed improvements for our young adult readers.

Article submitted by Christine A. Eggar, Director, Dundy County Public Library

Librarians Around The System

Western Library System Librarians are scheduled to present at the NLA/NSLA Conference October 11-13 in Kearney



Kids Can't Have ALL the Fun! Planning a Fun-Filled Adult Reading Program

This action-packed session will give attendees a look at the tools that make the Lied Scottsbluff Public Library's Adult Reading Program a big success. Ideas and handouts from past programs will be shared as well as thoughts on the upcoming 2018 *Libraries Rock* reading program. Get a look into the best ways to approach sponsors, excite library staff and engage the public with a fun and eventful adult reading program experience. Gering Public Library will also weigh in on their Adult Reading Program successes. As an added bonus, special guest, Dr. Steven Rothenberger, a Kearney resident, will share excerpts from his latest book highlighting the 60's rock era in small-town Nebraska.

Jana Kehn -- Library Assistant, Lied Scottsbluff Public Library

Sherry Preston -- Public Services Librarian, Gering Public Library

Access Through Their Screens: A QR Code Scavenger Hunt for Teens

We all know that kids these days (and a lot of adults too!) experience the world mostly through their smartphones. Since this is the case, why not help them experience their library through their phones as well? In this presentation, the presenter will describe how she developed a QR-code based activity to ensure that teens were competent and ethical users of digital media, especially the non-print resources offered through libraries such as e-books, e-readers, databases, audio-books, and social media. Ideal for anyone serving children in grades 6-12.

Ginnie Perez -- Teen Librarian, Lied Scottsbluff Public Library

Connecting Kids @ Their Library

This upbeat and fast-paced session will provide attendees with the tools, materials, and examples to implement two programs to the children in their community. Both the Kinder-Carding Project and the 100 Best Books Program were created by Lied Scottsbluff Public Library staff and have been incredibly popular and rewarding in the Nebraska Panhandle since their inception. Ideas or financing similar projects at your library will be provided.

Deb Carlson -- Children's/Public Services Librarian, Lied Scottsbluff Public Library

James Tidei -- Public Services Manager, Kilgore Memorial Library

Accessible History – Digitizing 142 Years of the Local Newspaper

The Sidney Public Library has the past 142 years of the local newspaper on microfilm. It gets a lot of use and the staff attempts to fulfill the many requests received for copies of birth and wedding announcements, obituaries and other topics of interest. If the requesters do not have a close estimate of the date they need researched, the library staff cannot fulfill the requests due to the time it would take search a broad range of dates. Also, the microfilm can only be accessed in the library making it virtually inaccessible to non-local researchers. With the award of a library improvement grant from the Nebraska Library Commission (NLC) and the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) via the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA), Advantage Preservation will be digitizing all the microfilm and creating a web-based text-searchable database for the Sidney Public Library that will make this resource readily available and easily accessed via the Internet.

Andrew Sherman -- Director, Sidney Public Library

Librarians Around The System

Grant-ing Access to the Good Life Through Technology

Tucked away in a quiet corner in Western Nebraska, the Kimball Public Library has been busy winning grants in recent years to improve the educational opportunities of its young patrons. The presenters will provide examples of grant-funded technology projects they have implemented and discuss the success they have had in earning these grants. This presentation is ideal for directors of small libraries seeking to implement similar projects.

Jan Sears -- Director, Kimball Public Library

Leta Liesch -- Assistant Director/Children's Librarian, Kimball Public Library

Successful Programming in Small Libraries

Rural libraries may feel daunted by the challenge of offering high quality programming to their communities. These challenges are real. Limited staff and resources, lack of time, and other factors mean that small libraries must carefully balance where their efforts are invested. However, program planning can offer opportunities for staff to explore their talents or to develop new ones, and to involve community members to do the same. Programs offer communities an additional source of entertainment. They provide access to informal learning opportunities that may otherwise not be available in geographically isolated areas. The presenters will provide examples of three successful ongoing series that were developed in-house and share the results of our first months as a NASA@MyLibrary program partner.

Rosella Tesch -- Director, Chadron Public Library

Susan Rolfsmeier -- Assistant Director, Chadron Public Library

Elizabeth Dahl -- Children's Librarian, Chadron Public Library

Helping Kids LEAP to the Good Life!

LEAP is an early childhood program created for the Gering Public Library in Gering, NE and made possible through a Youth Grant for Excellence by the Nebraska Library Commission. LEAP specifically targets children ages three through five for early literacy and math skills, fine-motor skills, and school readiness. It also emphasizes parent/caregiver education on the value of young children learning through play, parents/caregivers as their child's first teacher, and Nebraska Early Learning Guidelines. Learn how and why LEAP was created from the beginning ideas through implementation to end results. Practical suggestions on how to start a similar program in your library will be discussed as well as ordering and organization of materials and effectively using the physical space.

Christie Clarke -- Youth Services Librarian, Gering Public Library

Congratulations Gering Public Library!!!

- ◆ Christie Clarke, Youth Services Librarian, developed the LEAP (Learn, Explore, Achieve, Play) program last year through a Dollar General Literacy Foundation grant, and due to its overwhelming success Clarke plans to expand the program this year. Clarke also received KENO funds to expand the Read and Romp Toddler Story and Playtime. This will be held each Wednesday morning 10:00 a.m., along with a new evening Read It Again Storytime on Thursday evenings at 6:00 p.m. Both programs are based on the theory that children learn through playing and that parents can learn to facilitate this at home.
- ◆ The Gering Tennis Club's annual 24 - hour tennis fundraiser event in July raised a \$300.00 which they donated to the youth program at the Gering Public Library. Gering Tennis Club Coordinator Matt Palomo, along with several fundraiser participants, awarded the check to Sherry Preston, Public Services Librarian, and Christie Clarke, Youth Services Librarian.

Information derived from Jeff Fielder and Irene North, ScottsbluffStarherald.com

Book Review by Cathy Hatterman, Acquisitions Librarian, Nebraska Library Commis-

***The Untold Story of the Talking Book*, by Mathew Rubery**

Audiobooks are a recently conceived idea? No. Audiobooks were originally enjoyed only by the blind. No. Audiobooks were only played in cars? Well, the ones from the company called Books on Tape, were on cassettes, and first marketed to be played in the car while commuting. The first Talking Books were recorded on the first phonograph records, not cassette tapes. And why did Willa Cather and Rudyard Kipling not want their books recorded? Learn all this and much more in the *Untold Story of the Talking Book* by Matthew Rubery.

Actually, the beginning of the idea of books recorded on media begins with the first recording machine by Edison. His first audiences in 1878 already theorized about books being read on the cylinders first used. But the first media held 10 minutes of sound. The reality of Talking Books for the blind came about in 1930, on both sides of the Atlantic. Phonographs to play the records had to be provided, as well, since they were expensive for many years.

To request this book from the Nebraska Library Commission,
email nlc.ask@nebraska.gov with the call number: Z5347 .R83

The author follows the growth of the Talking Book for the Blind in the United States, the Talking Book for the Blind in the United Kingdom, and The rise of the commercial Talking Book, (Caedmon Records, Books on Tape, Audiobooks). Various themes run through all of the chapters. How poetry was usually popular recorded. How even the sighted families of the blind enjoyed Talking Books. Even some of the complaints—common for Talking Book for the Blind on both sides of the Atlantic was the complaint about accents! Such as having Dickens read in a southern accent. Or in the UK, a particularly thick country accent for a latest novel. Both countries solved the problems, but not exactly the same way.

I also include *The Library of Congress, Books for the Blind, Bowen Co., and technology...*, Lux Mentis Booksellers Blog, found in *American Libraries Direct*, 7/18//17, (online newsletter from ALA) contains photographs of Talking Book disks, and phonographs....

<http://www.asideofbooks.com/2017/07/18/the-library-of-congress-books-for-the-blind-bowen-co-and-technology/>

Check out the attached site for more information on the The Nebraska Library Commission's Talking Book and Braille Service (TBBS) : <http://nlc.nebraska.gov/tbbs/>

Information for your benefit:

Consumer Health Information Resource Service:
a Resource for Nebraska

Have you or your patrons ever felt overwhelmed while trying to find information to understand a new diagnosis, manage a chronic illness, or compare treatment options? **The Consumer Health Information Resource Service (CHIRS)** is here to help you! CHIRS is provided for free to Nebraska residents and Nebraska Medicine patients and families. Medical librarians are available to research health and wellness topics, and prepare a personalized packet of information to be delivered by mail or email.

To submit requests, visit our webpage: <https://www.unmc.edu/library/consumer/index.html>.

CHIRS has been serving Nebraska for over 30 years, and started as a cooperative between McGoogan Library of Medicine at the University of Nebraska Medical Center, the Nebraska Library Commission, and public libraries across the state. McGoogan Library continues to seek opportunities to support and collaborate with public librarians in providing health information to their communities. We have just launched a new Public Library Toolkit (<http://unmc.libguides.com/publiclibrarytoolkit>) to provide librarians with a starting point for consumer resources on health conditions, drugs & supplements, health services, training opportunities, and more.

McGoogan Library will also be exhibiting at the NLA/NSLA Conference in October. Please stop by our booth to learn more about CHIRS, and to pick up some flyers to take back to your library. We would also love to hear from you about the consumer health services you are providing at your library.

Article by Christian Minter

Western Library System Scholarship Application

- Would you like to attend a conference?
- Would you like to go to MPLA?
- Would you like to go to some of the meetings held around the state?
- Do you need funding for attending a workshop?

WLS has scholarship money available

Up to \$150.00 per event for registration, mileage, meals, etc.
All member libraries are eligible

<http://libraries.ne.gov/wls/files/2015/07/WLS-Scholarship-Application.pdf>

Don't Forget the Oct. 1 deadline!

Western Library System Public Library Accreditation Status

Accreditation of public libraries is a cyclical process, with approximately one-third of all libraries scheduled to apply for re-accreditation each year. The following link includes all Public Libraries (accredited and non-accredited). You can sort by System name and find the status of your public library.
This data is current as of 7/16/2017.

[List of all Nebraska Public Libraries](#) with their accreditation standing & next accreditation year.

Information provided by Nebraska Library Commission



WLS Board of Directors:

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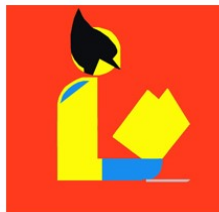
Fax: 308-632-3978

Webpage:

<http://libraries.ne.gov/wls/>

**Board of Directors bi-monthly meeting
minutes are available on the Western
Library System website**

<http://libraries.ne.gov/wls/>



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We currently have an opening on the Western Library System Board for the remainder of the term ending June 30, 2020. This would be a fantastic opportunity for you to have your voice heard.

If you are interested in running for this position, please send an email to Jeri Clapper, WLS Assistant at wlsassist@gmail.com to place your name on the ballot. Contact the WLS office if you have any questions. We look forward to having each of you consider this opportunity and what you could bring to the table for our WLS Board as a new member. (District C members only)

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